

A KICTANET  
COMiC

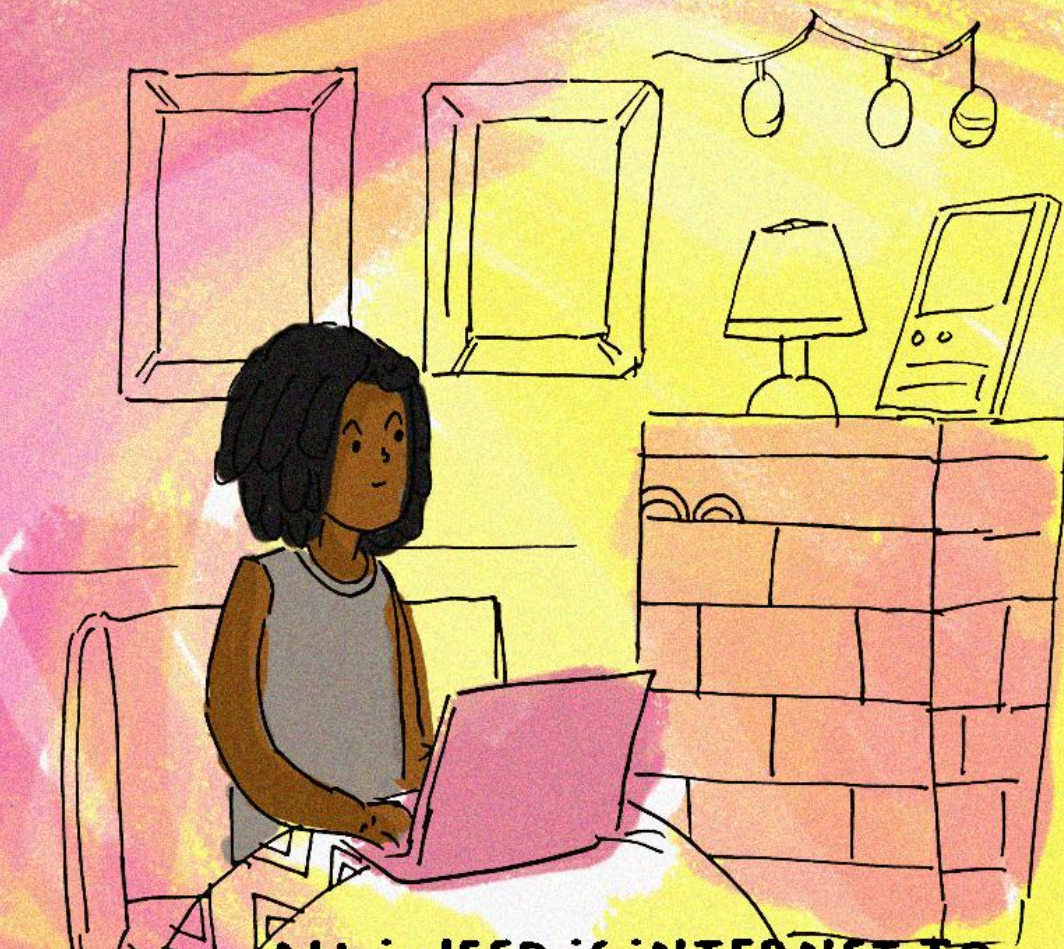
BADNETWORK  
AND POTATOES: AN  
iNTERNET STORY

**i've ALWAYS LOVED THE  
COUNTRYSIDE, THE OPEN AIR, THE  
VAST FARMLAND. i LOVE BEING A  
WOMAN FARMER. i GROW POTATOES  
AND LOOK FOR BUYERS ALL OVER THE  
COUNTRY**

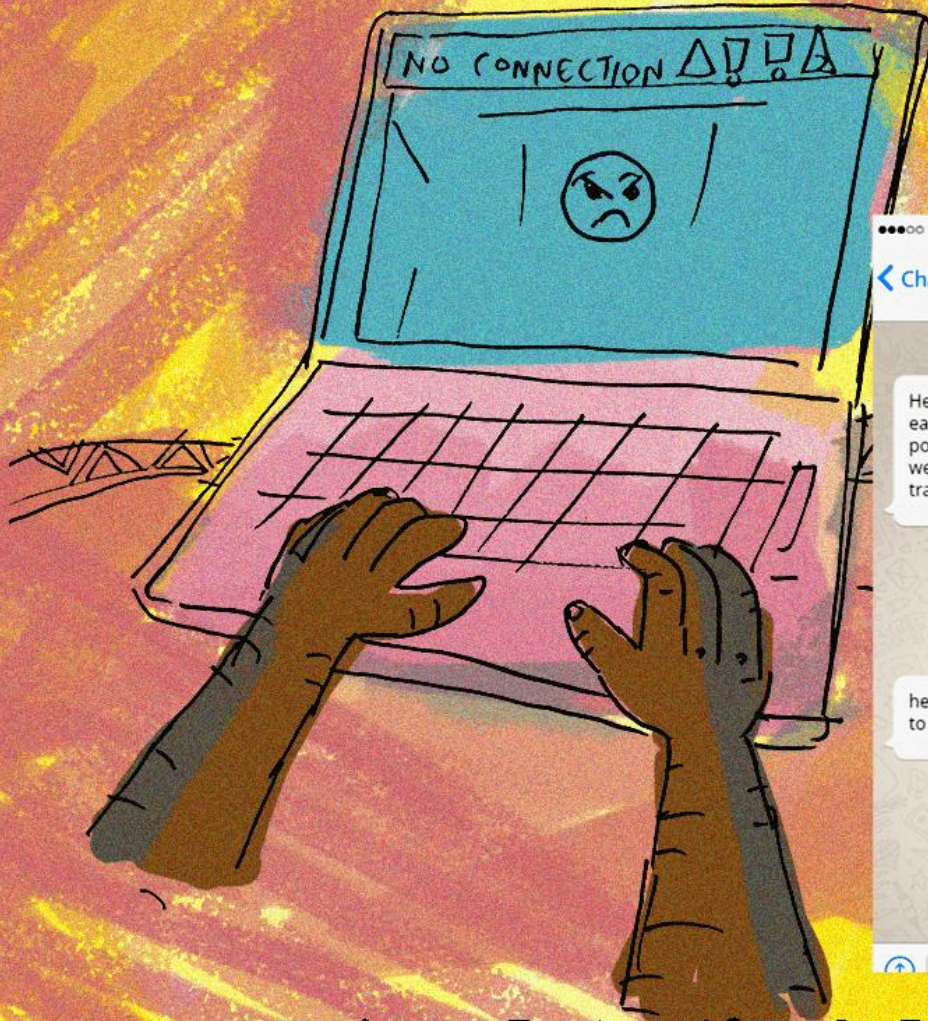




i DON'T NEED MUCH, JUST MY SMALL  
SPACE AND LITTLE FARM AND I'M  
OKAY . AND A STABLE INTERNET T IS  
KEY TO BEING INDEPENDENT HERE



**ALL I NEED IS INTERNET TO  
MAKE ME ABLE TO CONDUCT  
BUSINESS ONLINE. I'M TALKING  
TO A BUYER RIGHT NOW.**



**OH NO!!! THE UNSTABLE  
INTERNET JUST MADE  
ME LOOSE A CUSTOMER  
AGAIN!!!**

**INTERNET IN THE CITY MIGHT BE AS EASY TO SOME OF YOU AS BUYING YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF GUM ON THE STREETS, BUT FOR US IN THE RURAL AREAS IT'S NOT THAT EASY.**



IT'S NO SECRET THAT RURAL COMMUNITIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FACE A UNIQUE SET OF CHALLENGES COMPARED TO THEIR URBAN COUNTERPARTS. ISOLATION, SCARCE RESOURCES, AND POOR ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES LIKE CLEAN WATER, EDUCATION AND HEALTH FACILITIES ARE COMMON.

RURAL COMMUNITIES WITH LIMITED ACCESS TO INTERNET AND TECH DEVICES, HAVE EXPERIENCED EVEN GREATER ISOLATION. IN COMMUNITIES WHERE ONLINE ACCESS DOES EXIST, WOMEN ARE STILL AT A DISADVANTAGE. A PERSISTENT DIGITAL GENDER DIVIDE SHOWS WOMEN IN LOW AND MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES ARE 23 PERCENT LESS LIKELY TO ACCESS MOBILE INTERNET THAN MEN.



A FEMINIST PRINCIPLE ON ACCESS  
EMPHASIZES THE KIND OF INTERNET WE WANT:  
AFFORDABLE, EQUAL, AND UNIVERSAL, AND  
IS ESPECIALLY SIGNIFICANT WHEN WE LOOK AT  
THE CURRENT DIGITAL GENDER GAP  
AFFECTING INTERNET USERS TODAY WHERE  
200 MILLION LESS WOMEN THAN MEN ARE  
CONNECTED.

THE INTERNET IS FOR EVERYONE

**READ MORE ABOUT THE CHALLENGES RURAL  
WOMEN FACE WITH THE INTERNET**

**[HTTPS://WWW.GSMA.COM/MOBILEFORDEVELOPMENT/BLOG/R  
URAL-WOMEN-HAVE-SO-MUCH-TO-GAIN-FROM-MOBILE-BUT  
-ARE-BEING-LEFT-BEHIND/](https://www.gsma.com/mobilefordevelopment/blog/rural-women-have-so-much-to-gain-from-mobile-but-are-being-left-behind/)**